

## **Recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Governing Board on Implementing Measure AA in a Manner that Benefits Economically Disadvantaged Communities, as Amended by the Governing Board**

The Advisory Committee recommends that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority take the actions listed below to benefit economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs). The recommendations fall into three strategic intentions (SI) of **(SI01) create a guiding pathway** to shepherd community-based organizations, EDCs and others into the Measure AA Grant process; **(SI02) foster healthy relationships** based on trust, meaningful engagement and authentic partnerships; **(SI03) remove barriers** through a revised grant process including amending scoring criteria to incorporate social and racial justice principles into required criteria.

### **Near-Term (Six to Twelve Months)**

#### **1.1 Adopt Guiding Principles of Building Trust and Fostering Partnerships (SI01):**

- Build trust with community-based organizations and economically disadvantaged communities.
  - Any grantee receiving funding from Measure AA should be responsible for trust and community building.
  - Trust building should be prioritized over capacity building, which may be better accomplished by project applicants.
- Foster partnerships between community-based organizations and local government and/or project implementing entities.

**1.2 Request a Letter of Inquiry** prior to submitting grant application. The Authority will allow prospective applicants for grant funding the opportunity to submit a letter of inquiry to determine if the proposed project is ready for funding and would make a strong application. If a project is not determined to have the basis for a strong application, the Authority will have the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance on how the project could become a better candidate for funding. (SI02)

**1.3 Conduct community outreach workshops** for prospective applicants. Offer community workshops for community-based organizations to inquire about application process and implementation expectations (intended outcomes). (SI01)

#### **1.4 Amend scoring criteria** to show stronger nexus/relationships with EDCs. (SI03)

- Incorporate social and racial justice principles into required criteria.
- Add specific scoring criteria for applicants to demonstrate that proposed projects have local community support and/or to demonstrate engagement with EDCs.
- Community workshops to be explicitly required in the grant application to demonstrate engagement with communities and support for proposed project.

- Go beyond applicants demonstrating their projects are adjacent to EDCs.

**1.5 Visit economically disadvantaged communities** residing along the bay shoreline with the Governing Board, Advisory Committee, and Authority staff to better understand issues and potential opportunities. (SI02)

**1.6 Examine the feasibility to extend compensation to community members and leaders** for their participation and contribution. (SI02)

**1.7 Create a document with a basic template of what's expected of applicants** with examples of what a competitive proposal looks like and how to implement the scoring criteria in order to help clarify eligibility requirements. (SI01)

**1.8 Create an application checklist** for the applicants with a roadmap/blueprint of what they need to have ready in order to fulfill the grant criteria written in plain and accessible language. (SI01)

**1.9 Simplify language and phrasing in Measure AA communications materials.** Phrasing and language of Measure AA can discourage smaller agencies and organizations from applying. The language needs to be concise and more inclusive. (SI03)

**1.10 Enter all funded and potential EDC projects into EcoAtlas** as a project hub. Once these projects can be visualized, it will be easier to see if and how these projects can be consolidated or integrated with other bigger projects to achieve a higher level of benefits on a watershed scale. (SI03)

### **Short-Term – 1-2 Years**

**2.1 Seek more diverse and accurate representation** on the Authority's Advisory Committee, Citizen Oversight Committee and on the Governing Board. (SI01)

**2.2 More directly involve community participants in the grant process** including guidance, development, implementation and scoring. (SI02)

**2.3 Develop a second, separate application track for small community groups.** Community groups should not have to compete against much more established organizations and larger agencies with the capacity and resources required to apply under the current process. (SI01)

**2.4 Prioritize building capacity of partners and applicants from historically underrepresented groups** by offering technical assistance to support first-time applicants with navigating the process and eliminating barriers. (SI03)

**2.5 Leverage capacity by identifying community-based groups with the administrative capabilities to partner with smaller and/or grass roots organizations** to apply for and manage a government restoration grants. (SI03)

**2.6 Provide project planning assistance** to help local groups identify appropriate projects and habitat restoration goals. (SI03)

**2.7 Require or encourage project applicants to engage communities** with a focus on disadvantaged communities during or prior to the design process. (SI02)

**2.8 Recognize community-based expertise** and confidence in genuinely community-led processes. (SI02)

**2.9 Reevaluate budgets to allow the true cost of community engagement.** (SI03)

**2.10 Identify and work with community leaders** who have already created a trusting relationship with the people in the community. (SI02)

**3.2 Seek ways for the Authority funds to support work the community is already doing or interested in doing.** Meet with communities to identify how Measure AA funding can go to support their current and planned work. (SI01)

### **Long-Term – 3-5 Years**

**3.1 Establish a communications strategy that fosters relevance through better understanding needs and priorities of underrepresented community groups.** (SI03)